

Resolutions Committee Report - Gayla LePage, Chair

The Delegates to the 2017 NYSRTA Annual Meeting approved two proposed new resolutions. The approved measures are printed below. One resolution was accepted as was and one as amended. The amended changes are in bold. The necessary additions will be made to the “Be It Resolved...” document that can be accessed on the NYSRTA website.

A special thanks to the zones who submitted the proposals and to the Delegates for their acceptance of these statements.

Resolution B-5-1: Social Security (North Central Zone)

WHEREAS, wage earners pay 6.2% federal tax for Social Security and a 1.4% tax for Medicare while employed; and

WHEREAS, wage earners who retire pay ordinary federal tax on 50% of their Social Security benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning between \$32,000 and \$44,000 per year and 85% of their benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning more than \$44,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes double taxation, that is, individuals are taxed twice on the same earnings; and

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that **the NYSRTA** urge the **New York State Federal Legislators** to support the removal of all federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

Resolution E-16-2: Delegates to the Constitutional Convention (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the NYSRTA opposes the approval of the 2017 referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention the organization must be prepared in the event such a convention is called; and

WHEREAS, the delegate to said convention would be elected in November, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the process to become a delegate is very involved, requiring a substantial number of petition signatures, an effective campaign mechanism and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the process strongly favors individuals who are current office holders, political party leaders and insiders despite the fact that the delegate positions are technically open to everyone; and

WHEREAS, the decisions and recommendations made by the convention will be heavily impacted by the makeup of the delegates and their background and special interests; and

WHEREAS, a Constitutional Convention could result in recommended negative changes to many areas of concern (including but not limited to public education, collective bargaining rights, pensions, environment, social welfare) to the NYSRTA and its members; now

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that if the referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention is approved in November 2017, the NYSRTA initiate an immediate and active campaign in an effort to have individuals whose interests represent the objectives of this organization be elected as the delegates to the Constitutional Convention: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA join like minded organizations to promote the election of delegates who will defend and protect our common interests; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA initiate and conduct a mechanism to inform the membership of the intricacies and importance of the delegate selection process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA, the zones and units encourage their members to become informed and active participants in the delegate selection process.